



Position Statement 6 February 2017

Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Form

Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) has always been a subject of much debate. It has been the belief of Dr John Grenville, myself and senior members of East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) that a DNACPR decision could be communicated on any medium even a DNACPR chest tattoo.

We recently had an audience with our coroner, Dr Robert Hunter and I specifically asked this question to him. Dr Hunter's response was that a standardised format on which to record a DNACPR order should be used where it is clearly documented that a MCA (mental capacity assessment) has been done if capacity is in doubt.

Over the years there have been many different forms which have caused conflicts between provider organisations. Dr Hunter advised that the one he liked the most for the community was 'Allow Natural Death', he advised this form had no ambiguity especially when it came to things like 'resuscitating a choking individual'.

You may also be aware that there is on-going discussions with the Resuscitation Council around the formatting of the ReSPECT document - this is a treatment escalation plan that incorporates DNACPR and there is movement within secondary care to adopt this model.

As a Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee member my main aim for 2017 is to work with the Derbyshire Alliance for End Of Life care, EMAS and the CCG's around the 'Allow Natural Death' form within the community setting.

In summary the coroner urges us to use the standard DNACPR form; it does not have to be in colour but does need an original signature and be filled in in its entirety. We could also ask our patients to fill out an Advance Decision to Refuse Treatment (ADRT) - This is a legally binding document that could incorporate a DNACPR decision.

Dr Pauline Love
Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee Member
6 February 2017

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Dr Susie Bayley, Head of Communications, Derby and Derbyshire LMC

